



LOUISVILLE'S HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT TASK FORCE

Year-End Report December 2018



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“Every human being who finds themselves living on our streets is an individual with their own story and their own needs. We want to treat them with dignity, respect and compassion, and do everything we can to help them get the resources they need. That’s a shared goal, and it will take the work of all of us to realize that goal.”

Mayor Greg Fischer

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

In December 2017, Mayor Greg Fischer created the **Homeless Encampment Task Force** to review and develop city policies and procedures dealing with homeless encampments.

The Homeless Encampment Task Force is a collaborative effort with more than 20 partner organizations and 60 participants from government, business, non-profits, religious leaders, and concerned citizens. Multiple departments of Metro Government are represented, including Resilience and Community Services, Metro Health and Wellness, the Louisville Metro Police Department, and Metro Solid Waste Management, as well as members of the Metro Council and many charitable and advocacy groups such as the Coalition for the Homeless.

The Task Force has been working to implement a new Metro Ordinance that requires 21 days of notice before clearing an occupied homeless encampment and other initiatives. The Task Force also provides a platform to facilitate conversation between service providers, homeless persons, outreach workers, and the broader community; understand challenges; identify common goals; and develop a plan for improved services.

The Task Force is co-chaired by Eric Friedlander, Louisville Metro Chief Resilience Officer; Gena Redmon Harris, Director of Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services; and Natalie Harris, Executive Director of Louisville's Coalition for the Homeless.

Currently, there are three Task Force subcommittees:

- Best Practices Subcommittee: Research methods/procedures that were successful in other cities to inform Louisville's approach.
- Direct Action and Policy Subcommittee: Developed Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) for government agencies involved in 21-Day Notices.
- By Name and Outreach Subcommittee: Meets monthly to coordinate approaches and services when a 21-Day Notice is posted.

The Task Force and subcommittees have had some significant successes including:

- Identifying and addressing those individuals who some had thought impossible to get off the streets and move into more stable housing and services.
- Establishing better communication channels across government to better coordinate actions both internally and externally.
- Requesting and receiving funding in Louisville Metro Government's Fiscal Year 2019 budget to hire a consultant to explore low-barrier shelter options and include recommendations for the best long-term solutions.

The following report details this work, including tasks completed and those in progress, as well as recommendations for immediate and future actions that could be taken. It also contains a brief overview of a multitude of other community initiatives that are ongoing or newly proposed to connect homeless residents with the resources they need.

TASK FORCE TIMELINE



HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT TASKS COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Table 1: Homeless Encampment Task Force Completed	Participating Entities	% Complete	Start	End
Direct Action Committee: Created the Homeless Encampment Standard Operating Procedures for the 21 Day Notice.	RCS, LMPD, Public Works, Codes and Regs	100%	2/2/18	3/24/18
By Name Subcommittee: Meets monthly to coordinate approaches and services when 21-Day Notice is posted. Additionally, the Coalition for the Homeless has established a "By Name" group to identify the most vulnerable individuals who are unsheltered to coordinate outreach by the street teams and the case managers to get the most vulnerable individuals to services and shelter.	Coalition for the Homeless and the Outreach Organizations	100%	2/2/18	5/30/18
Coordinated the Hepatitis A shots at the Homeless Encampment sites.	Louisville Metro Public Health Department, Outreach Organizations	100%	2/2/18	11/30/18
Best Practices Committee: Identified the need for a Low Barrier Shelter. Louisville Metro Government allocated \$50,000.00 for a RFP for Low Barrier Shelter.	RCS, Coalition for Homeless and Best Practice Committee	100%	7/1/18	7/20/18
Convening of the Homeless Encampment Task Force meeting to strategize the Homeless impact-effort module. On Nov 30th the Office of Performance Improvement issued their evaluation report.	OPI, Homeless Encampment Taskforce Meeting	100%	11/13/18	11/30/18
Direct Action Committee: Electronic tracking of homeless encampment complaints (Survey 123).	RCS and Public Works	100%	7/31/18	9/25/18
Table 2: Homeless Encampment Task Force Ongoing				
Best Practices: Coalition for the Homeless released the RFP and received three responses, scoring is scheduled to be completed on Dec. 7 th .	Coalition for Homeless and LMG	50%	7/1/18	6/30/19
Infant Focus Group worked with the University of Louisville to provide a guide to street outreach groups on how to respond when infants are found on the street. Awaiting document from U of L.	RCS and Kent School	50%	10/8/18	12/31/18
Homeless Encampment Storage of personal items identified by Homeless Encampment Task force. Currently we are working on a collaboration with LMHA Downtown Partnership and St John's Day Center to use storage containers to provide a flexible system of storage for the personal items of individuals who are homeless. Lot, storage containers and operator has been identified. Budget and structure need to be fully identified.	RCS , DDT, St. John Day Center, Metro Housing Authority	75%	9/11/18	12/30/18
Continue the ongoing effort to inoculate (Hepatitis A) all homeless.	Health Department and the Outreach Organizations	50%	2/2/18	6/30/19
Convening of LMG Departments to discuss a strategy for housing (landlord recruitment and affordable housing). First Meeting was 12/04/2018.	RCS and Develop Louisville	1%	12/4/18	6/30/19

PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT BEYOND THE HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT TASK FORCE

Homelessness is a complex issue that requires dedicated individuals from all sectors of the community to work together for the greatest impact. Louisville Metro Government is proud to collaborate with non-profits, businesses, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations on numerous initiatives to reduce the number of Louisville residents who become homeless and provide aid to those who do.

- **Louisville's Continuum of Care (CoC)**, administered by the Coalition for the Homeless, collaborates with Louisville Metro Government and non-profits to synchronize funding and services for the homeless.
- **ShelterWorks**, a two-year-old partnership with KentuckianaWorks that provides training and employment services for individuals staying in homeless shelters.
- **New Street Change Working Group** was established to address the issue of panhandling throughout the city and explore concepts associated with providing a direct pathway to employment and services. (Note: Not all panhandlers are homeless.) Members of the Street Change Working Group include business associations, Louisville tourism, behavioral health providers, the Coalition for the Homeless, outreach organizations, community members, and Metro agencies such as LMPD, Resilience and Community Services, Emergency Medical Services, and the Crime Commission.
- **New Re-entry Roundtable**, a partnership with HUD, Congressman John Yarmuth's Office, Kentucky Department of Corrections, and Metro Resilience and Community Services to address housing, jobs, and case management for formerly incarcerated individuals to lower homelessness and recidivism.
- **Coffee and Connections**, a weekly outreach effort by Neighborhood Place staff at the Louisville Free Public Library's Main Branch that provides support services and information to homeless individuals.
- **New Landlord initiative**, a collaboration with Resilience and Community Services, Veteran Affairs, the Coalition for the Homeless, Volunteers of America, St. John Center for the Homeless, and the Salvation Army with the goal to increase the number of landlords with fair market rate housing/affordable housing who are willing to accept voucher supports.
- **Project Homeless Connect/VA Stand Down** is an annual one-day community outreach project for community service organizations to address the collective needs of the homeless during a single visit. It's made possible by the work of hundreds of volunteers and resources from the Robley Rex VA Medical Center, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, Louisville Metro Government, the Coalition for the Homeless, and Louisville Metro Council.



PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT

BEYOND THE HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT TASK FORCE

- **LouieConnect** is an on-line tool for homeless individuals and others in need to get connected to resources and services like food, shelter, housing, and transportation.
- Working with United Way and many other partners to implement a **communitywide referral system** among social service, housing, legal service, health care and education providers to more quickly identify and enroll individuals into needed services.
- **Coming Together for Hope, Healing and Recovery**, a report and 2-year action plan released in March 2018 by Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness to address substance use and misuse in Louisville.
- **The Louisville Metro Affordable Housing Trust Fund** was created by Metro Council to invest additional local public funds to address the affordable housing shortage for individuals such as working families, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, or others whose wages are not enough to maintain a stable place to live.
- **The Living Room**, a diversion program administered by Centerstone, provides behavioral health support and wrap-around services to individuals who are experiencing crisis episodes in unsheltered situations. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and no one is barred from services.
- RCS awards nearly \$3 Million annually to local non-profits for homeless prevention, emergency shelter, street outreach, and case management services through ESG, HOPWA, CDBG and Continuum of Care (CoC) funds.
- The **Housing and Support Division** of Resilience and Community Services provides approximately 400 households ongoing rental assistance and case management.
- Our community has helped more than 1,000 military vets since launching the **Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness** in 2015.
- **100-Day Challenge** in Fall 2017 found housing for 116 young adults.
- HUD awarded a **\$3.4 Million Youth Homelessness Grant** to the the Coalition for the Homeless to address homeless youth ages 17 to 24, thanks in part to collaborations with the city and other partners in successful efforts to eliminate homelessness among veterans and youths.
- **Numerous other compassionate efforts** not listed here are underway to help the homeless in our community, and we are grateful to all who make those possible.



TASK FORCE OUTREACH

The Task Force is not solely focused on removing encampments from public places. The Task Force is also heavily motivated by the needs of those living in encampments. Louisville is a compassionate city, and that phrase translates to a network of private interests, faith groups, not-for-profits, the local government, and others working in partnership to ensure that Louisville's most vulnerable are not forgotten.

Outreach to persons living without shelter has been happening in Louisville for decades thanks to the tireless efforts of many in the community. The recent Encampment Task Force brought a renewed interest and increased coordination among those who aid persons living without shelter. Below are a few figures that show some of what these groups have accomplished in the last year as they work each day to improve the lives of those who call encampments home.



Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness

Louisville, and other cities across the nation, faced a recent outbreak of **Hepatitis A**. Encampment residents are at an increased risk of contracting the illness.

The Task Force partnered with Public Health and Wellness to coordinate the process of vaccinating encampment residents across the city.

The partnership has led to approximately **8,000 vaccinations** for those experiencing homelessness between December 2017 and October 2018, around 750 persons per month.

Fed with Faith, Exit 0, My Dog Eats First, and Others

Fed with Faith has provided food to **more than 300 persons** living without shelter so far in the winter of 2018 alone.

Forgotten Louisville, Exit 0, and many other local groups help those without shelter obtain birth certificates, Social Security cards, clothing, and help with laundry and showers.

Coalition for the Homeless and By Name Subcommittee

The Coalition for the Homeless is a force within Louisville that strives to reduce rates of homelessness, works to improve services for those who find themselves without a home, and helps coordinates activities ranging from prevention to finding supportive housing for those among us who are chronically homeless.

Natalie Harris, the Coalition's Executive Director, also chairs the Task Force's By Name subcommittee, which puts a special focus on residents who live unsheltered on Louisville's streets, with an emphasis on learning the names of those whose lives are most threatened by living outside to grow trust and help end their experience with homelessness.

Based on data provided by the Coalition for the Homeless, **115 individuals and 26 families** entered housing after living unsheltered since the Task Force began last year.

APPENDIX A: TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Thank you to the Task Force members for their dedication to bettering the lives of Louisville’s residents.

Eric Friedlander, Co-Chair
Chief Resilience Officer, Louisville Metro Government

Gena Redmon Harris, Co-Chair
Director, Louisville Metro Resilience and Community Services

Natalie Harris, Co-Chair
Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless

Abby Drane , Centerstone

Amanda Mills, Family Health Centers–Phoenix

Amy Schutz, Up In Louisville

Andrea Scott, Up In Louisville

Andrea S. Brown, LMPD–Special Events

Andy Bates, LMG—Resilience and Community Services

Metro Councilwoman Barbara Sexton Smith

Metro Councilman Bill Hollander

Brandi Scott, Coalition for the Homeless

Carey Addison, Family Health Centers

Cindy L. Marquel, Kentucky Department of Transportation

Sgt. Corey J. Robinson, LMPD–Community Policing

Daro Mott, LMG–Office of Performance Improvement

Debra P. Byrd, Louisville Downtown

Lt. Drew Wagner, LMPD–Community Policing Unit

Major Eric J. Johnson, LMPD–1st District

Frank Kalmbach, Louisville Downtown

Geoff Elmore, Family Health Centers

Giselle Danger-Mercaderes, Jefferson County Public Schools

Jan Day, Center for Accessible Living

Jay Alexander, Urban Barbers of Louisville Inc.

Jennifer Clark, St. Vincent DePaul

Jerimy Austin, LMG–Codes and Regulations

Officer Jessica Morrison, LMPD–4th Division

Johanna Wint, Salvation Army

John Curry, Family Health Centers

John L. Miles, LMG–Resilience and Community Services

Rev. John H. Carter, Change Foundation–GGPD Ministries

Karen Boykins McGhee, LMG–Resilience and Community Services

Kate Mary Taylor, Centerstone

Kathleen Gashun

Kathy Cox, University of Louisville Hospital

Keith Hackett, LMG–Solid Waste Management Services

Kevin Taylor, Metropolitan Sewer District

Kimberly Brothers, Centerstone

Kimberly Moore, KentuckianaWorks

Laura Ward, Centerstone

Leah Bell, LMG–Resilience and Community Services

Lee Zimmerman, The Kidz Club

Maggie Elder, Metro United Way

Maria Price, St. John’s Center

Mark Bolton, LMG–Corrections

Mary Frances Shafer, Coalition for the Homeless

Mary Luke Noonan, St. John’s Center

Matt Hellmich, Wellspring

Matthew LaRocco, LMG–Public Health and Wellness

Mick Parsons, Fed With Faith

Dr. Muhammad Babar

Nina Mosely, Wayside Christian Mission

Nicole Wright

Sgt. Pamela Oberhausen, LMPD–4th Division

Patricia Higgins, University of Louisville Hospital

Paul Strensrud, Jesus Cares at Exit 0

Rebecca Matheny, Louisville Downtown

Officer Robert Yoshioka, LMPD–4th Division

Steve Fenster, LMG - Public Works

Steve Levy, Kentucky Select Properties

Dr. Sarah Moyer, LMG–Public Health and Wellness

Shara Parks, LMPD

Tameka Laird, LMG–Resilience and Community Services

Theresa Hayden

Tim Poole, Dizzy Whizz

Tiny Herron, The Forgotten Louisville

Lt. Todd Felty, LMPD–1st Division

Tom Parmenter, St. John’s Center

Tony Zipple, Centerstone

Vanessa Burns, LMG–Public Works

Vincent James, LMG–Community Building

Wendy Maganaro, Fed With Faith

Wesley Barbour, LMG–Codes and Regulations

Will King, Coalition for the Homeless

APPENDIX B: 2017 ANNUAL CENSUS OF THE HOMELESS IN METRO LOUISVILLE



Louisville Metro Continuum of Care 2017 Homeless Census

Number of Homeless

The homeless service providers in Jefferson County, KY counted 6695 unduplicated homeless people who were served between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. This number includes both sheltered and unsheltered* homeless. The count of the unsheltered homeless is an estimate, due to the difficulty in counting this population group.

Sheltered homeless	5921	5% Increase from 2016
Unsheltered homeless	774	4% Increase from 2016
Total	6695	5% Increase from 2016

* Sheltered = people who stayed in emergency or transitional shelters.

Unsheltered = people living on the street or who received homeless services other than shelter.

Homeless Subpopulation Counts

The subpopulation counts below apply to the 6695 sheltered and unsheltered homeless total.

Number of single individuals	5205	6% Increase from 2016
Number of homeless families	337	7% Decrease from 2016
Number of people in families	1012	11 % Decrease from 2016
Number of children served (age 17 and under)	1084	.5% Increase from 2016
Number of youth 17 and under entering homelessness without an adult**	453	39% Increase from 2016
People with disabilities	3616	2% Increase from 2016
Victims of domestic violence	1349	8% Increase from 2016
Veterans	708	.2% Increase from 2016
Number of Youth 12-24 w/no other family member older than 24	847	New data field as of 2017

**The majority utilize our YMCA Safe Place emergency shelter projects.

Shelter Capacity

The shelter capacity is the total number of shelter beds that were available during the reporting period. This data is pulled and calculated from the October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017 AHAR and is not available on current HMIS Reports.

Number of ES and TH*** shelter beds in 2017	Total on Avg. Night: 691	
Bed utilization on an average night	ES-IND	92%
	ES-FAM	93%
	TH-IND	89%
	TH-FAM	94%

*** ES = Emergency Shelter, TH = Transitional Shelter

Success in Reducing Homelessness

Each year, the homeless providers in Jefferson County, KY manage to stabilize and move many of the homeless people out of homelessness. This table shows our community success in moving people to some type of permanent housing during the year.

People exiting shelters to permanent housing during Oct 2016-Sept 2017	802 (20% Decrease from previous year)
Percent of total homeless people entering permanent housing in 2016	12%

HELPING OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

It will take all of us in this compassionate community – government, individuals, places of faith, and businesses – to make a real impact in addressing Louisville’s homelessness. Find ways to plug in with one of the many organizations or outreach groups serving our homeless neighbors.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit louisvilleky.gov and search for “Helping our Homeless Neighbors.” There you can:

- ◆ Learn more about volunteering and other ways to support Louisville’s Coalition for the Homeless
- ◆ Connect with a homeless outreach team
- ◆ Connect with an organization that helps the homeless
- ◆ Learn how to contribute to the Positive Change Program
- ◆ Connect a homeless person with resources

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Anne Frank

For more information and updates about Louisville's Homeless Encampment Task Force:

Visit Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services website at
louisvilleky.gov/RCS

